



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Aug. 2010 Minutes

**D R A F T**  
**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP                      SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON**  
**AUGUST 18, 2010 MEETING                      Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

**In attendance:** Dave Haas, Elizabeth Karpati, Charlotte Milan, Gail McCormick, Scott Samenfild.  
**Facilitator:** Charlotte Milan                      **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**Next meetings:** Thurs. Sept. 23, Wed. Oct. 20, Thurs. Nov. 18, Wed. Dec. 15.  
 All 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

- Spy Pond news, good and bad: The owner of Elizabeth Island has finally agreed to sell it to the Arlington Land Trust without demanding a building-lot price, but a fund-raising campaign will be necessary. The pond is now closed to swimming (for dogs too) because of irritating microcystis algae, which tend to develop naturally in hot weather.
- MCAN is now promoting the CoolMass campaign, which is based on the "Low Carbon Diet" workbook. Newton, Belmont, and Winchester are among the participating towns. For SA it could be like the Smackdown: run by a subgroup rather than SA as a whole. There is such a subgroup, which has already met once.
- Census Survey: Elizabeth is to explore whether SA can get into the January 2011 Survey – how much space could we get and what is the lead time.
- Compost: Gail and Charlotte met with the DPW and Recycling Committee, whose consensus is that trash could be reduced more cost-effectively by introducing Pay As You Throw (PAYT) than by curbside recycling. PAYT was proposed some years ago but the Selectmen were against it then. SA is being asked to advocate for it. Maybe it needs a more attractive name such as SMART = Save Money and Reduce Trash. John Bean is in favor and is looking into what happened in communities that have introduced PAYT, e.g. has it led to increased dumping of trash?
- Bus shelters: The public comment period is nearly over. The Selectmen will take up the question in September.
- The national Chamber of Commerce opposes doing anything against global warming. Some local Chambers won't go along with it; SA should work with the Arlington Chamber to get it to fight global warming.
- We should keep a list of possible projects and issues that could get new members interested and working on them.
- The Energy Working Group includes the Deputy Town Manager and representatives from DPW and the PTBC. It is planning to work with an ESCO.
- The Website Committee has trained committee chairs in maintaining their committee web pages; these pages are getting ready to be published.
- The focus of the EcoFest next spring will be the Mystic Valley watershed. The Town's planning committee will meet in September; ours should meet soon to develop ideas. We have the Senior Center reserved for two dates in October for a preliminary event, and we could also plan a follow-up event for next fall.